

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Application No. 09/881,662
Attorney Docket No. Q64982

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Additionally, the Examiner fails to acknowledge receipt of and indicate approval of the proposed drawing correction (for Fig. 12) that Applicants filed on April 3, 2002. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of and indicate approval of the proposed correction to Fig. 12 in the next correspondence.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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23373

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Date: May 14, 2003

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A liquid charging method for charging a liquid container with a liquid, said liquid container being provided with a piezo-electric device for detecting a consumption condition of said liquid in said liquid container, said piezo-electric device ~~being provided with~~ having a cavity connecting to an inside of said liquid container and said cavity contacting said liquid, comprising the steps of:

reducing a pressure in said liquid container to a pressure lower than an atmospheric pressure; and

charging said liquid container with said liquid.

14. (Thrice Amended) A liquid container comprising:

a container body; and

a piezo-electric device for detecting a consumption condition of a liquid in said container body, said piezo-electric device ~~being provided with~~ having a cavity connecting to an inside of said container body and said cavity contacting said liquid;

wherein an internal pressure of said container body is reduced to a pressure lower than an atmospheric pressure, and

wherein said container body is charged with a liquid.

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19. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing a liquid container comprising the steps of:

preparing a liquid container having a container body for containing a liquid and a liquid feed port for feeding said liquid in said container body to an outside, and a piezo-electric device for detecting a consumption condition of said liquid in said container body, said piezo-electric device ~~being provided with~~ having a cavity connecting to an inside of said container body and said cavity contacting said liquid;

forming a lyophobic part in said piezo-electric device, said lyophobic part being lyophobic to said liquid in said container body;

attaching said piezo-electric device to said liquid container; and

charging said container body with said liquid using a liquid charging method, said liquid charging method comprising the steps of reducing a pressure in said container body to a pressure lower than an atmospheric pressure and charging said container body with said liquid.